STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1125 -24

, 2024

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 15

RE: S.B. No. 2683

S.D. 1 H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2024 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 2683, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DEFAMATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to protect individuals who make claims of sexual misconduct from defamation lawsuits unless the claims are made with malice.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Kapalama Neighborhood Security Watch. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission.

Your Committee finds that reporting an incident of sexual assault, sexual harassment, or sex discrimination comes with fear of retaliation, such as a defamation lawsuit. This measure addresses the chilling effect that threats of lawsuits may have on survivors of sexual assault, sexual harassment, or sex discrimination by providing additional protections for the goodfaith reporting of such claims.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2). Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2683, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2683, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

Dan Tamas

DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair

## State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-second Legislature

HSCR 1125-24

## Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

SB2683 SD1 Committee	ee Referral:	N Da	Date: 3.12.24		
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to:  Pass, unamended (as is)  Pass, with amendments (HD)  Hold  Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused	
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)					
2. TAKAYAMA, Gregg (VC)					
2. TAKAYAMA, Gregg (VC)					
3. EVSLIN, Luke A.					
4. GANADEN, Sonny					
5. HOLT, Daniel					
6. ICHIYAMA, Linda					
7. ILAGAN, Greggor					
7. ILAGAN, Greggor					
8. KONG, Sam Satoru					
9. MIYAKE, Tyson K.					
10. SOUZA, Kanani					
	1.0				
TOTAL (10)	10		-		
The recommendation is:  Adopted  If joint referral, did not support recommendation.  committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					